

IN THE CLAIMS

1-5. Cancelled.

6. (original) A method of assembling a combustor liner, comprising:

providing a plurality of annular bands disposed about a central axis, each of said bands having a forward and an aft end;

positioning first and second ones of said annular bands in an overlapping relationship relative to each other, so as to define a circumferentially extending joint area;

directing a laser beam at said joint area at a first axial position and concurrently rotating said first and second annular bands about said central axis so as to expose the entire circumference of said joint area to said laser beam, whereby a first weld bead is formed; and

directing said laser beam at said joint area at a second axial position while rotating said first and second annular bands about said central axis so as to expose the entire circumference of said first joint area to said laser beam, whereby a second weld bead is formed, said second bead at least partially overlapping said first weld bead.

7. (original) The method of assembling a combustor liner of claim 6 wherein each of said annular bands includes a flange having a first length in an axial direction, and first and second weld beads have an overall length in an axial direction, said overall length being substantially equal to said first length.

8. (original) The method of assembling a combustor liner of claim 6 further comprising:

disposing additional ones of said annular bands in an overlapping relationship with an adjacent one of said annular bands so as to create an additional circumferentially extending joint area, and;

directing a laser beam at said additional joint area at a first axial position and concurrently rotating said additional ones of said annular bands about said central axis so as to expose the

entire circumference of said additional joint area to said laser beam, whereby a third weld bead is formed; and

directing said laser beam at said additional joint area at a second axial position while rotating said additional annular bands about said central axis so as to expose the entire circumference of said additional joint area to said laser beam, whereby a fourth weld bead is formed, said fourth bead at least partially overlapping said third weld bead